

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 777

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION recognizing and commemorating the designation of the Susan Ingram Thurman Gymnasium at Red Bank High School.

WHEREAS, from time to time, certain residents of this State are recognized for their many good works by having certain buildings named in their honor; these acts serve as tributes to those exemplary citizens who have contributed significantly to the moral and social fabric of their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Susan Ingram Thurman, who was recently recognized with the naming of the Red Bank High School in her honor; and

WHEREAS, Susan Thurman has dedicated a large portion of her life to Red Bank High School, both as a student and later as a teacher and coach; and

WHEREAS, as a student at Red Bank High School, Ms. Thurman was a leader among her peers and achieved a high level of excellence in her roles as an athlete and as the editor of the school's newspaper; and

WHEREAS, following her graduation in 1966, she attended Middle Tennessee State University, from which she earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees; and

WHEREAS, Susan Thurman then returned to her high school alma mater, embarking on a career in which she taught both physical education and health, in addition to rendering sterling service as the volleyball coach, the girls' track coach, the assistant and head softball coach, and the assistant girls' basketball coach; and

WHEREAS, she stood as the assistant girls' basketball coach for ten years, the assistant softball coach for eight years, the head softball coach for one year, the girls' track coach for three years, and the volleyball coach for an outstanding twenty-five years; during her career,

she compiled an overall record of 776 wins and 265 losses and lead her teams to fourteen district titles, seven regional titles, and ten state tournament appearances; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Thurman was honored as the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association's Coach of the Year fourteen times and the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association's Coach of the Year in 1990; during her stellar twenty-five-year career, she guided thousands of athletes, seventeen of whom received volleyball scholarships as a result of her expert tutelage; and

WHEREAS, she brought the same level of excellence to her role as a teacher, bestowing on all her students not only the rules of the games but also the rules to leading a good life: get involved, play fair, and always do your best; and

WHEREAS, the gymnasium which now bears her name is the site of an eagerly anticipated, yearly ceremony she established; the Hall of Fame Ceremony recognizes Red Bank graduates for their personal and professional accomplishments, and stands as a testament to Susan Thurman's love of and dedication to her community; and

WHEREAS, the gymnasium is also the location of her office, in which she mentored new teachers, encouraged students in need of a kind word, and completed some of her finest work in her role as Red Bank High's Academy Director, during which time she led the school through a decade of remarkable growth and success; and

WHEREAS, Susan Thurman has dedicated her life and her career to the students of Red Bank High School and to her community, and it is fitting that she be properly recognized for her brilliant record of service and inspiration; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and congratulate Susan Ingram Thurman on the occasion of the renaming of the Red Bank High School Gymnasium in her honor and offer our deepest appreciation for her unwavering dedication to excellence throughout her career.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.